

CLAIMS

1. A method of synthesizing the sound of a musical instrument, including the steps of:-

- obtaining samples of the sound of said instrument,
- 5 • analysing the harmonics of said samples of said sound,
- selecting harmonics of said sampled sound according to prescribed characteristics of the envelop of said harmonics for synthesizing harmonics of the synthesized sound,
- 10 • grouping harmonics of said sampled sound of similar envelop characteristics and obtaining temporal characteristics of the group of harmonics from constituting harmonics of the same group,
- 15 • synthesizing a plurality of synthesized harmonics of the synthesized sound, wherein at least some of the synthesized harmonics are synthesised from one of the envelops of the harmonics of a group and conditioned by the temporal characteristics of the constituting harmonics of that group.

2. A method of claim 1, wherein said prescribed characteristics for selecting a harmonic including selecting a harmonic with more salient variation in amplitude over-time.

3. A method of claim 1, wherein a plurality of selected harmonics of said sampled sound being group added to form a synthesized harmonic of the synthesized sound.
4. A method of claim 3, wherein said synthesized harmonic obtained by group addition being scaled up or down for generating other harmonics of said synthesized sound.
5. A method of claim 1, wherein said synthesized sound being synthesized from a plurality of characteristic harmonics, a plurality of said characteristic harmonics having a substantially similar envelope.
- 10 6. A method of claim 5, wherein the number of said plurality of characteristic harmonics does not exceed 4.
7. A method of claim 5, wherein at least one of said characteristic harmonics being synthesized from a plurality of harmonics of said samples of said sound.
- 15 8. A sound synthesized from any one of the preceding methods, characterised in that a plurality of the harmonics of the synthesized sound have substantially the same variation in the amplitude envelope.
9. A sound according to claim 8, wherein the synthesized sound is reminiscent of the sound of a string instrument.